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THE USE OF T-590 ALLOY ON CUTTING BITS

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Bits for coal cutters and combines are coated with T-590 alloy to increase their hardness and resistance to wear. The coating is applied through the electric arc medium, using an electrode with a low-alloy core of 3-4 millimeters' diameter. The core is coated with a composition containing water glass, ferrochrome, boron carbide, and argentiferous graphite.

T-590 excels powdered stalinite, granules of gray iron, "vokar," SG electrode alloy, and other recognized alloys in the following respects: it is possible to renew the bits coated with it up to 10 times, without previous reshaping in the forge; after the alloy has been fused onto the bit, its durability may be increased by simple tempering with equipment readily available at any mine; components going into the make-up of the electrode coating are easily obtainable; the boride crystals present in T-590 have a great abrasive quality.

Tests have shown that resistance to wear of ordinary cutting bits coated with T-590 was 1.9-2.4 times greater than that of similar bits armed with stalinite, while the area of wear was on an average 34 percent less.

Sufficient tests have not yet been conducted on compounding boron carbide with iron and chrome. Boron carbide still presents a problem, for while it increases the hardness of the alloy, it also makes it more brittle.

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